

BULLETIN OF THE
TASMANIAN FIELD NATURALISTS CLUB INC.
<http://www.tased.edu.au/tasonline/tasfield/tasfield.htm>

Jan 1999
Editor Andrew Walsh

Number 293

The Tasmanian Field Naturalists Club Inc. encourages the study of natural history and supports conservation. We issue our journal *The Tasmanian Naturalist* annually in October. People with a range of backgrounds and knowledge are welcome as members.

Contact Genevieve Gates (03 6227 8638) for further information, or write to GPO Box 68A Hobart 7001.
Bulletin or website articles to Andrew Walsh (above address or 146 Misty Hill Rd. Mountain River 7109)

PROGRAM

General meetings start at 7:45pm on the first Thursday of the month in the Life Sciences Building at the University of Tasmania. Outings are usually held the following weekend, meeting at 10am outside the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery entrance, Macquarie St. *If you are planning to attend an outing but not the meeting prior, check as to the timing of the excursion as sometimes unforeseen changes occur.*

4th Feb- **Roadside rescue of native vegetation**- Natalie Papworth (Roy. Tas. Bot. Gardens)

7th Feb- (Sun) A native plant journey to Old Beach.

4th Mar- **Maram grass in coastal ecosystems**- Mike Pemberton (P.W.S.) followed by our Annual General Meeting, which will involve the nomination and voting in of the new committee for 1999. A nomination form is enclosed in this issue.


6th Mar- (Sat) Field trip to be announced at meeting on 4th March.

26th-28th Mar- **Federation Weekend Outing**. All Field Nats in Tasmania get together for a weekend at Paton Park near Ulverstone. This weekend is hosted by the Burnie Field Naturalists. For more information contact Kevin Bonham (ph. 6224 8487).

Other Activities


The **Tasmanian Environment Centre Inc** is organising a ferry trip to Partridge Island on board the MV Cartela on Sunday February 28th, departing the Brooke St Pier at 8.15 am, returning ca. 6.00 pm (cruise time 3.5 hours each way). Costs are Adults \$20, Concession \$15 and Children \$12 (accompanied by adult). Food and refreshments can be purchased on board the boat, otherwise pack a picnic lunch. Bookings must be made by Fri 12th Feb. through the Tasmanian Environment Centre, 102 Bathurst St Hobart, ph 6234 5566 (Fax 6234 5543).

Hobart City Council Summer Bushcare Activities as well as **Free Ranger-Guided Summer Activities around Hobart**- see inside this bulletin for further details.



Subscriptions are now due for 1999.

See membership renewal form inside this bulletin.



Free Ranger-Guided Summer

Activities around Hobart

Over the summer, the Parks and Wildlife Service will be conducting a program of guided walks, spotlight tours, slide shows and exciting activities at various national parks around the State. Highly qualified and experienced Interpretation Rangers will be on hand to answer your questions and reveal a deeper side to the remarkable natural and cultural heritage of our parks.

All activities are free; For enquiries and bookings please call 6233 6191, Monday - Friday 9 -5; Children should be accompanied by an adult; please wear strong footwear and appropriate clothing.

Thursday 4th February

8:30 pm: "Bugs and Bandicoots" Come for a spotlight walk and find out about some of the animals that live around Hobart. To book on this activity please call 6233 6191 from 9 am -5 pm.

Friday 5th February

2:00 pm - 5:00 pm: Wildlife of Mount Nelson Come and talk to a Ranger at Mount Nelson Signal Station about some of the animals that live in Hobart's urban fringe and how to find out if they're about.

8:30 pm: "Bugs and Bandicoots" Come for a spotlight walk and find out about some of the animals that live around Hobart. To book on this activity please call 6233 6191 from 9 am -5 pm.

Saturday 6th February

2:00 pm - 5:00 pm: Waterworks Wildlife. Look for the Parks and wildlife Exhibit at the Waterworks Reserve and learn about some of the wildlife living close to Hobart.

Hobart City Council Summer

Bushcare Activities

Bookings are required for all activities. Phone Kerry Heatley at the Hobart City Council on 6238 2884. Please wear warm clothing, strong boots and bring a suitable raincoat. Remember weather on Mt. Wellington can change very suddenly. Also bring refreshments and snack for walks.

Friday 5th February

9.15pm-10.30 pm

Bizarre Bats- Waterworks Reserve.

See these fascinating little creatures close range with Ray Brereton from Parks and Wildlife. There will be time to look for Bandicoots too.

Friday 12th February

9.00 pm-10.00 pm

Bandicoot Search- Waterworks Reserve.

A spotlight to look for Barred Bandicoots, Brushtail Possums and other native wildlife.

Friday 19th February

9.00 pm-10.00 pm

Bat Watch- Fern tree

See the native bats which live around Fern Tree. They include about five species of these tiny insect eating mammals.

Sunday 20th February

2.00 pm-4.00 pm

Bush Banquet- Fern Tree

Turn the bush into afternoon tea with the help of Kris Schaffer from the Australian Bush Foods Society. There will be lots of tasty morsels to try.

Friday 26th February

9.00 pm-10.00 pm

Bat Catch- Fern tree

Your last chance to have a close up view of Tasmania's micro bats before next summer. These bats will go into hibernation during the cool weather.

Short Courses in Coastal Management

Greening Australia (Tas) is organising accredited short courses in coastal management in February (Hobart), March (Launceston), August (Hobart), and October (Launceston). Courses provide those involved in coastal management with information to use daily in their workplace. Whether in State and local government, community based organisations, committees of management, industry or professional associations, participants will find these courses of value. Courses include both classroom sessions and field trips and have an emphasis on problem solving using local examples. Costs are Introductory Course \$250, Advanced Courses \$250 each, and Additional Advanced Course \$100. A small number of subsidised positions are available for members of community/volunteer groups. For more information call Greening Australia on 6223 6377.

To all our friends in TFNC

from Sue & Phil Collier

It has been an interesting year and busy year for us. House renovations have been mixed with trips to the bush.

We are finding the walking easier and not so spectacular. We have had several trips to the high country for overnight camping in good weather. September/October saw us with two weeks holiday at Wilson Prom. and the Grampians. Excellent orchid hunting and walking.

We have both settled into work fairly well and are enjoying the change both at work and home. We miss our friends in Tas but are looking forward to more mainland wanderings.

Christmas will be a three week trip from Canberra to Thredbo across the mountains. We hope our new garden will not suffer too much and the watering system works.

Kind regards to all.

Book Review

By Kevin Bonham

Jones, David Contributions to Tasmanian

Orchidology 1-9 Australian Orchid Research 3

Australian Orchid Foundation, Essendon, Vic.

(Available: Hans Wapstra at Parks and Wildlife, Tasmanian Environment Centre)

After a decade of uncertainty, this volume presents a massive overhaul of Tasmania's orchid flora, and renders all previous Tasmanian orchid books redundant. For instance, almost half the names used by Curtis (1979) have changed. This book cannot stand alone as a Tasmanian orchid guide, but aims to describe new species, eliminate incorrect records, clarify species and checklist the Tasmanian flora, which now includes 186 species, 60 of them endemic.

Jones also includes new identification keys for the more diverse genera. While much more user-friendly than the notoriously technical Curtis keys, these have the defect of sometimes choosing on the basis of characters where you might need several specimens to be sure. If your sole *Caladenia* specimen from a locality has one flower, how do you know whether its species can sometimes produce more than one flower?

Jones has done a superb job of eliminating incorrectly recorded species from the Tasmanian taxa, and anyone identifying our orchids will be glad to have several mainland "red herrings" off our list. In general, Jones' new species, although sometimes

based on quite minor differences, are thoroughly justified and illustrated with especially crisp and detailed drawings and (in many cases) photos, several of which are outstanding. There may still be argument about some species (for instance, I'd like to see more robust study of variation in *Caladenia carnea* / *C. fuscata*.) but the vast majority of Jones' names are clearly here to stay. Jones' notes on the distribution, characters, protection status and altitude ranges of species are generous and very helpful, although the last two contain a few inevitable errors.

Those actively involved in identifying and conserving orchids, or with an interest in how orchid taxonomy develops, will find this book immediately useful.

Those just looking for a new stand-alone guide to Tasmanian orchids should probably wait for "Orchids of Tasmania", expected out around December 1999, which may include a few more changes, as studies in some genera (e.g. *Microtis* and *Thelymitra*) are continuing.

Bird Counters Wanted

Matt Wheeler, Coordinator of the Wetlands International Cambodia and Mekong Program based in Phnom Penh, is looking for an experienced counter of shorebirds who might have 30 days to spare in March of this year. Wetlands International, in collaboration with Birdlife International, are soon to commence a one-month study of shorebirds in southern Vietnam to nominate sites for the Shorebird Reserve Network; the work is being managed by Wetlands International from the Canberra office, specifically by Doug Watkins. Help is needed from someone who is already living or traveling in the region and would like the experience of being part of the project. They have not got much funding for salaries but do have enough to cover all expenses: food, accommodation, and transport. If you should know of anyone who might be interested in helping out, please ask him or her to contact Matt directly (phone/fax: (855) 23 427 137, Mobile: (855) 15 830 410, e-mail wetlands@bigpond.com.kh).

Seed Collecting Day at Hamilton

The Understorey Network is conducting a seed collection day on **Tuesday February 9th at 9 am**. Meet at the Hamilton Resource Centre, and bring your lunch, drink, sun hat and sunscreen, secateurs, paper bags and pencils. For further info phone/fax Alison on 6399 3593.

Email: understoreynet@hotmail.com. Learn the benefits of understorey planting in your garden and farm; working with nature to restore health and beauty in our environment.

Tasmanian Field Naturalists Club Inc.

Membership renewal form

Name and address
(or attach address
label)

Membership fees

Adult	\$20
Family	\$25
Concession	\$15
Junior	\$15

Please return this form and your
membership fee to

The Secretary
Tasmanian Field Naturalists Club Inc.
GPO Box 68A, Hobart, 7001

Tasmanian Field Naturalists Club Inc. – Nomination Form

I hereby propose _____ for the position of _____

Proposer _____ Signature _____
Secondor _____ Signature _____

I agree to stand for the above position _____
Signature _____ Date _____

Positions on the committee: President, Vice-President, Treasurer, Secretary, Bulletin Editor,
Naturalist Editor, Programme Officer, Librarian, and three committee members.